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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 23, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 17 totaled an estimated 17.2 billion ton-miles, 3.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first three weeks of 1987 was an estimated 45.4 billion ton-miles, down 4.8 percent than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 17 totaled 382,394, down 2.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 6.8 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 5.8 percent in the East and up 2.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, chemicals and allied products were up 1,766 cars (7.2 percent) while crushed stone, gravel and sand increased by 1,479 cars (14.8 percent). Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 10 totaled 89,984 trailers and/or containers, 3.9 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first two weeks of the year was 156,583 trailers and/or containers, up 4.8 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/17/87:

	Loadings in Week ended January 17, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,245	D	1,908	6.8	I	1,526	6.2
Other farm products	5,459	I	589	12.1	I	402	7.9
Metallic ores	11,361	D	104	0.9	I	5,869	106.9
Coal	108,677	D	9,248	7.8	I	3,950	3.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,498	I	1,479	14.8	I	942	8.9
Nonmetallic minerals	8,350	D	783	8.6	D	672	7.4
Grain mill products	11,142	I	86	0.8	D	147	1.3
Food and kindred products	11,322	I	91	0.8	I	615	5.7
Primary forest products	10,966	D	819	6.9	D	569	4.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,889	I	557	7.6	I	669	9.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,217	D	591	4.3	I	100	0.8
Chemicals and allied products	26,400	I	1,766	7.2	I	10	0.0
Petroleum products	4,637	D	608	11.6	D	302	6.1
Stone, clay and glass products	9,038	D	376	4.0	I	145	1.6
Coke	4,069	D	432	9.6	I	40	1.0
Metals and products	8,063	D	484	5.7	D	221	2.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,395	D	2,519	11.0	I	3,947	24.0
Waste and scrap materials	8,599	D	176	2.0	I	643	8.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,880	D	2,834	49.6	I	587	25.6
All other carloads	72,087	I	8,044	12.6	I	6,730	10.3
LCL traffic	100	D	48	32.4	D	4	3.8
Total Cars Loaded	382,394	D	8,318	2.1	I	24,260	6.8
Corresponding week of 1986	390,712						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (3 weeks)	1,002,348	1,051,724	D 4.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Week ended January 10	28.2	29.9	D 5.8
Week ended January 17	17.2	17.8	D 3.2
3 Weeks cumulative	45.4	47.7	D 4.8

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